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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Ivan Izenberg DATE 10/6/81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
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DIRECTORATE CHAIRMAN GENERAL THIEU STATED AUGUST 12 THAT "FROM NOW ON THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE ALL-OUT EFFORTS TO HELP ALL SLATES IN THEIR ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNS ACCORDING TO THEIR REQUESTS, PROVIDED THAT THERE MUST BE ENOUGH TIME FOR PREPARATION AS WELL AS A CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CENTRAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE AND THE SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION AND THAT THE SLATES' REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT BEYOND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES' CAPABILITIES." STATEMENT

PAGE 2 RUMJIR 2919 UNCLAS
WAS MADE BY GENERAL THIEU IN INTERVIEW WITH A VIETNAM PRESS (VP) CORRESPONDENT. REPORT WAS PUBLISHED IN EVENING ENGLISH EDITION AUGUST 12. OTHER PERTINENT PARTS OF VP REPORT FOLLOW:

QUOTE ASKED ABOUT HIS VIEWPOINT ON THE SEVEN PRESIDENTIAL

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Department of State TELEGRAM

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 02919 13 0432Z

SLATES' REQUEST FOR A REPLY FROM THE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE DONG HA INCIDENT, GEN. THIEU MADE KNOWN THAT THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION ALREADY MADE AN OFFICIAL ANSWER YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IMPUTING THE DONG HA INCIDENT TO A REGRETTABLE TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY.

GEN. THIEU ADDED THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL AS LOCAL AUTHORITIES WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT INCIDENT.

TO A QUESTION ON THE 2ND COMMUNIQUE OF A NUMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL TICKETS DENOUNCING THAT THE HUE AUTHORITIES PREVENTED VOTERS FROM MEETING WITH THE CANDIDATES, GEN. THIEU SAID THAT NO LOCAL AUTHORITY DARE AND IS CAPABLE OF TAKING SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY.

ASKED ABOUT HIS STANDPOINT ON OTHER SLATES' POSSIBLE DELAY IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND THE DEMAND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT OR ANOTHER COMMITTEE FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS, GEN. THIEU SAID THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED INCIDENT

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 2919 UNCLAS
WAS NOT A VALID REASON TO DEMAND THE SETTING UP OF A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND SINCE THERE IS ALREADY A COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF ELECTION ORGANIZATION, AMENDMENTS (SIC) SHOULD BE MADE WHENEVER THERE IS A MISTAKE.

TO A QUESTION OF THE 62 US SENATORS' MENTION OF A LACK OF GOOD-WILL FROM THE GOVERNMENT IN GIVING EQUAL MEANS TO ALL PRESIDENTIAL TICKETS, GEN. THIEU MADE KNOWN THAT, THERE HAS BEEN SO FAR NO INEQUALITY IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. END QUOTE
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